

All....

Once again, thank you all for your most generous support for the NHMDA Fund Raising Bike Ride. The 2008 version was a bit different in that our day 2 and day 3 ride routes were different than they've been for the past 9 years,

As most of you know, our day 1 route starts at the border station in Pittsburg NH and ends in Littleton. This year's version of that section was pretty rider friendly... cool, cloudy, with a bit of a head wind and a few light showers. Our next door neighbors here in Londonderry, John and Jean Wissler, have a summer camp up in Lunenburg VT not far from a section of the last part of the route we ride, Rt 135 out of Lancaster down thru Dalton to Littleton. They waited for me to pass by the Lunenburg covered bridge and we had a nice little visit on the road that day... a nice break near the end of a tough 100 mile day.

Saturday's ride this year took us down to West Lebanon via NH Rts. 135 and 10... 135 from Littleton over to Monroe and down to Woodsville is one really pretty stretch of NH that you really ought to travel sometime if you haven't... absolute eye candy. Saturday's weather was cool with a touch of everything... sunshine to cloudy to rain and back to sun again.... Lots of up and down rollers on Route 10... and it could use a paving job pretty badly.... Very tough on the places where a cyclist connects with the machine.

Our Saturday evening in West Lebanon we get to meet the person that our ride is dedicated to. This year it is Pete Lafferty from Nashua and his recently deceased brother Joe... Pete read a really touching poem he wrote about his brother to all of us... several members of the Lafferty family also did the ride this year... I can't imagine how tough it must be to have already lost one son to MD and be facing the possibility of losing another... some really classy and strong folks here... hit this link for a little more info on the Lafferty brothers. Their courage and grit certainly dwarfs anything we do on this ride.

<http://www.transnhbikeride.org/dedications/2008.html>

Day 3 takes us from West Lebanon to Concord on a combination of roads that are (imagine that) hilly... this was one hard day for yours truly... I've never struggled so much as I did this day; the weather was again cloudy and not terribly hot albeit there was plenty of humidity and that always hated headwind to beat thru. Our arrival in Concord coincided nicely with some really nasty thundershowers that were passing thru the area... our post ride cookout and fire truck escort thru Concord were damp affairs.

Still, after a week to heal up the worn spots that a bicycle will invariably leave on your body and the human mind's ability to not remember the pain, I am already looking forward to next year's edition of this Tour de NH. I've always said I'd continue to do this til a major body part falls off.... I kinda thought for a while on day three that this might be the year I lost one of those parts... not so much...

Again, thank you for the support.... You helped raise over \$150,000 for NHMDA this year... that's what it is all about at the end of the day.

Cheers....